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## **Cassis Introduces Cost-Saving Education Bill**

### ***Senator's Legislation Streamlines CEPI***

LANSING— The Vice-chair of the Senate Education Committee, Sen. Nancy Cassis, R-Novi, introduced cost-savings legislation today that streamlines the use of the Center for Educational Performance and Information (CEPI) by requiring all data submissions to go directly to CEPI rather than to other state agencies.

“Michigan families explore ways to cut costs during difficult financial times, and as a state, we should do the same,” Cassis said. “This legislation will allow CEPI and other agencies to coordinate their efforts and information in a more efficient manner, saving state and local tax dollars.”

The purpose of CEPI, a state agency under the Department of Management & Budget, is to collect and report data about Michigan's K-12 public schools. That data includes student test scores, enrollment figures, graduation and dropout rates, teacher information, pupil/teacher ratios, crime and safety data, financial information, and building infrastructure.

Currently, schools are required to submit their data to CEPI in addition to other state agencies. This has caused duplicated efforts on projects costing the state valuable time and resources.

State agencies such as the Family Independence Agency, the State Police, and the Department of Education that need information on Michigan's public schools can contact CEPI and the data would be forwarded at the agency's request.

This bill, the first in a five-package series, is the result of hearings held in March by the Senate Education Committee where education leaders discussed ways the committee could legislatively implement cost-saving measures.

“It is absolutely critical that we provide our children with a quality education,” Cassis said. “We need to find the most cost-effective ways to do that.”

Cassis invited local school superintendents within her senate district to share their thoughts. Dr. William Pearson of South Lyon Community Schools, Dr. Emmitt Lippe of Novi Community Schools, and Dr. Robert O'Brien from Huron Valley School District each lent their expertise and provided valuable input to search for cost-saving solutions.

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